

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing information to a user connected to a data network, the system comprising:

a database for storing information;

a server associated with the database and having an information module, the information module responsive to a search request signal and sends information from the database corresponding to the search request signal; and

a first station for initiating voice conversation with a second station, the first station having a memory unit, a playback module, and a flow controller, the memory unit operable to storing a plurality of programming modules, the plurality of programming modules operable to:

store information at the first station and to station, the information comprising audio information;

determine when to play the information, initiate voice communication to the second station;

the playback module for playing play the information stored at the first station in accordance with the determination of the memory unit, in response to initiating the voice communication to the second station;

and the flow controller for determining determine an amount of bandwidth available to receive information from the database and database;

responsively affecting affect the receiving of information from said database the database;

determine whether a request for additional information has been received;

connect the first station to a third station associated with the information, if a request for additional information has been received; and

connect the first station to the second station, otherwise.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station includes means for receiving personal information from a user and sending the search request signal based on said personal information.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein while the first station coupled for communication with the information module, ~~the flow controller a programming module~~ monitors the amount of bandwidth available to receive information from the database.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station has means for determining whether the information received from the database is properly received.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the database stores the information in predetermined categories that the server uses for searching for information corresponding to the search request signal.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 5, wherein the search request signal from the first station contains a code associated with at least one of the predetermined categories.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station includes means for storing information received from the database and means for playing at least a portion of said information at a designated time.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the first station plays at least one portion of the information before establishing a communication channel between the first and second stations.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the first station receives information from the database after establishing the communication channel between the first and second stations.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~the playback~~ a programming module streams the information received from the database.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station is a telephonic device and can establish a communication channel over a packet-switched network.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is advertisements.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is a plurality of music programs.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is a plurality of stock quotation information.

15. (Currently Amended) A first station for providing information to a user connected to a network, the first station comprising:

a user interface for allowing a user to interact with the first station; and

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming modules, ~~modules including a memory unit, a call initialization module, a playback module, and a flow controller, wherein the memory unit is operable to the plurality of programming modules operable to:~~

~~store information at the first station and to station, the information comprising audio information;~~

~~determine when to play the information, the call initialization module initiates initiate voice communication with a second station, station;~~

~~the playback module plays play the information received at the first station in accordance with the determination of the memory unit, in response to initiating the voice communication to the second station;~~

~~and the flow controller determines determine an amount of communication bandwidth available to receive information at the first station and station;~~

~~responsively affecting affect the receiving of the information at said first station based on the amount of bandwidth available available;~~

~~determine whether a request for additional information has been received;~~

~~connect the first station to a third station associated with the information, if a request for additional information has been received; and~~

~~connect the first station to the second station, otherwise.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The first station of Claim 15, wherein ~~the flow controller a programming module~~ monitors the amount of communication bandwidth available to receive information from a server while the first station is in communication with the server.

17. (Currently Amended) The first station of Claim 15, wherein ~~the playback a programming~~ module streams information received at the first station.

18. (Original) The first station of Claim 15, further comprising an error controller for determining whether information received at the first station is properly received.

19. (Original) The first station of Claim 18, wherein in response to determining the information was not properly received at the first station, causing said information to be resent to the first station.

20. (Original) The first station of Claim 15, wherein the storage medium providing storage of information received at the first station before playback.

21. (Original) The first station of Claim 20, further comprising a memory manager for managing a memory allocation of the storage medium.

22. (Original) The first station of Claim 15, further comprising a code module for receiving personal information from a user and sending a code associated with the personal information to a server.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for providing information to a user connected to a data network, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication channel between a first station and a server, the server associated with a database, the first station ~~comprising a memory unit, a playback module, and a flow controller storing a plurality of programming modules;~~

identifying information to send to the first station from the database;

determining ~~at the flow controller~~ an amount of communication bandwidth available between the first station and the server;

receiving information at the first station responsive to the amount of communication bandwidth available between the first station and the server for providing to a user;

storing information at the first station ~~using the memory unit, the information comprising audio information;~~

~~determining at the memory unit when to play the information initiating voice communication to a second station; and~~

~~playing the information using the playback module in accordance with the determination of the memory unit in response to initiating the voice communication to the second station;~~

determining whether a request for additional information has been received;

connecting the first station to a third station associated with the information, if a request for additional information has been received; and

connecting the first station to the second station, otherwise.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

storing the received information at the first station having a memory; and

providing the received information to the user at a designated time.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of establishing a communication channel between the first station and a second station.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of receiving information at the first station occurs after the step of establishing a communication channel between the first station and the second station.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of receiving information at the first station occurs before the step of establishing a communication channel between the first station and the second station.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

terminating the establishing of the communication channel between the first and second stations and performing a step of establishing a communication channel between the first station and a third station if said first station sends a connection request to establish the communication channel with the third station.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

prior to performing the step of establishing a communication channel between the first and second stations, determining whether the first station sends a connection request to establish a communication channel with a third station; and

terminating the establishing of the communication channel between the first and second stations and performing a step of establishing the communication channel between the first and third stations if said first station sends the connection request.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving personal information at the first station from a user; and  
receiving the personal information at the server.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30, wherein the step of identifying information to send to the first station is responsive to the personal information received at the server.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of determining whether personal information was already received at the first station from the user.